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Signed

Dated 1 May 2003

Andrew Jersey

12 FEB 2003



NEWPORT

13FEB03 E754405-1 C13678
P01/7703 0.00-0303169.7**Request for grant of a patent**

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

 Cardiff Road
 Newport,
 South Wales
 NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

SADDLE FLAPS

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0303169.7

12 FEB 2003

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

① DAVID KEMPSHELL + MAGGIE WHITE
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 LITTLE DUSKIN FARM
 COUET LANE, KINGSTON, CANTERBURY
 KENT CT4 6JS

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

N/A. ②6850326052 ③856432002

4. Title of the invention

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO SADDLE FLAPS

I.E.

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

N/A

LITTLE DUSKIN FARM
 COUET LANE, KINGSTON,
 CANTERBURY, KENT CT4 6JS

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)Date of filing
(day / month / year)

N/A

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

N/A

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
- any named applicant is a corporate body.

See note (d))

NOT REQUIRED

Patents Form 1/77

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Do not count copies of the same document.

Continuation sheets of this form	Nil
Description	2
Claim(s)	Nil
Abstract	Nil
Drawing(s)	3 & 3

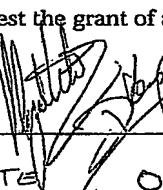
10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents	None
Translations of priority documents	None
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)	None
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)	None
Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)	None
Any other documents (please specify)	None

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature



Date

10/2/03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

MAGGIE WHITE 01227 831614

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IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO SADDLE FLAPS

The present invention relates to improvements in or relating to the saddle flaps and girthing arrangement of an English style saddle.

The flaps of a saddle are pieces of shaped leather which serve the purpose of protecting the horse on one side and the rider on the other from the girth straps whilst also supporting the rider's leg in the correct position. There are various different shapes and styles of flap depending on the discipline that the saddle is designed for i.e. Jumping or dressage etc. However, the purpose stays the same.

In construction there are two ways one can make a flap.

- a. In the first method there are actually two flaps not one. They are referred to as the sweat flap and the saddle flap with the girth straps running in between the two flaps. The sweat flap protects the horse from the girth straps and is therefore next to the horse's flesh. This sweat flap is normally part of the panel construction. The panel being the cushioned part of the saddle that lies against the horses back and spine and is made to contour to the horse's back.

The second flap - the saddle flap - is a separate piece of leather that is normally screwed or nailed to the tree of the saddle so making a solid and permanent fixing. The saddle flap will have cushioning for a knee support for the rider normally referred to as a knee roll.

- b. The second method of construction is a "mono-flap". The mono-flap is where both the sweat flap and saddle flap are combined into one enveloped construction and then permanently fixed to the tree in the same method as the saddle flap in the first example. There is a small advantage to having this single flap as it does give the rider a closer feeling to the horse.

Both methods rely on the girth straps being secured separately to the tree rather than as part of the flap itself.

Neither method of construction and fixing of these flaps allow the saddler to be able to alter the angle of the flap with relation to the rest of the saddle so being able to accommodate for a rider with a longer or shorter leg. Also the fact that the saddle flaps are fixed permanently means that they can not be changed so allowing the rider to change the style of saddle to suit a different discipline of riding.

We shall illustrate that The present invention is unique in the manufacture of a saddle flap in the following ways...

1. The flap will give the rider or retailer the ability to change the angle of the flap with relation to the seat so making the same saddle more suitable for people of different leg lengths.
2. The flap will be able to be removed completely so it can be changed for a completely different one that could be suitable for a totally different riding discipline.
3. The flap will also incorporate a method of fixing the girth straps so that they are part of the flap rather than the tree and seat of the saddle.
4. The flap will incorporate a method of girthing that will make the saddle the flaps are used on more suitable for various types of horses.

The present invention can be constructed to appear outwardly exactly the same as the conventional flap arrangements outlined above in a. & b. but its method of a removable fixing of the flap to the saddle tree makes the saddle more flexible and saleable.

The above and other aspects of the present invention will now be illustrated in further detail, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying figures in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a conventional English style saddle with separate sweat and saddle flaps in a side view;

Figure 2 illustrates a conventional English saddle panel and combined sweat flap with tree/seat removed in a side view;

Figure 3 illustrates the embodiment of the invention viewed from one side with the hidden detail of the girth straps/webbing and fixing points shown

Figure 4 illustrates the embodiment of the invention viewed from the side showing the rotation of flap

Figure 5 illustrates the fixing points in the tree viewed from below

To illustrate the present invention, it is convenient to outline the construction of the flaps of a conventional saddle (10). Normally the sweat flap (6) which lies against the horse's skin and upper saddle flap (5) are made from butt leather of around 3mm thick. The sweat flap (6) is usually attached permanently to the saddle panel (4) as shown in figure 2. The upper saddle flap (5) is attached permanently by nails, or other fixing to the saddle tree (30) under the seat (2) of the saddle (10). The front portion of the upper saddle flap (5) is normally made of softer leather laminating a sheet of foam on both sides to make it more comfortable for the knee of the rider. The knee block (9), is a piece of leather covered shaped foam that provides support for the rider's knee, and can be part of the upper saddle flap (5) or be fixed to the sweat flap (6) as shown in figures 1 and 2. The positioning of the knee block (9) depends on the design of the saddle and as normally neither the sweat flap nor saddle flap can be removed it becomes irrelevant as to which it is affixed.

The girth straps / billets (8) of the saddle, are fixed by stitching to webbing which runs under the seat (2), attaching to the tree also under the seat (2). The girth straps / billets (8) are not attached to either the sweat flap (6) nor the saddle flap (5).

With the alternative mono-flap construction the sweat flap (6) is either greatly reduced in size or absent. The upper saddle flap (5) is either made of a single sheet of butt leather or of a sandwich of thinner leathers. Either way, the saddle flap (and combined sweat flap if present) is permanently attached to the tree of the saddle. The knee block is formed within the sandwich of the combined flaps. In a mono-flap construction the girth billets (8) are attached to the tree under the seat (2) and then run between the sandwich of leather forming the upper saddle flap (5) exiting in a hole for this purpose.

The present invention (20) incorporates an upper saddle flap, a sweat flap, the girth webs (12 and 14) and girth straps /billets (18 and 19) for each side of the saddle in one detachable unit (20), as shown in figure 3. The tree of the saddle (21) shown in figure 5 requires that there are points of fixing (22,23,24) with bolts that screw into suitably strong fixings (22,23, 24) that are affixed to and pass through the tree of the saddle (21).

The present invention (20) has several fixing points shown in figures 3 and 4 as positions (15,16,17) which we shall describe as a forward fixing point (15), middle fixing points (16) and back fixing points (17). As shown in figure 4 the flap can be rotated on the forward fixing point (15) and therefore change the angle and therefore the relationship of the flap to the saddles seat. This will allow for different leg lengths in riders. The mid position would be the standard or Mr. Average position and the other positions would provide for shorter hip to knee leg length by rotating the whole flap backwards or longer legs by rotating forwards.

Obviously these same adjustable fixing points also provide a method for removing the flap completely so another flap with identical fixing points but totally different style (shape and length) can be replaced.

The girth webs (14 and 12) are arranged in a particular manner illustrated in figure 3 to accommodate the necessity for a secure fixing whilst also being able to allow the girth straps (18 and 19) to exert an even and centered pull over the saddles tree. The forward fixing point (15) which, attaches to the tree (21) at fixing (22) and back fixing point (17) which attaches to tree (21) at fixing (24) provide the attachment for the front girth strap (18). The middle fixing point (16) attaches to fixing (23) on tree (21) and the back fixing point (17) which attaches to fixing (24) on tree (21) for the back girth strap (19). Accordingly the girth (3) will pull the saddle down at its center. In this way if one girth is tighter than its partner one does not bias the pull towards the front or back but always keeps the pull centered and therefore the saddle more secure and still on the horse's back.

FIGURE 1

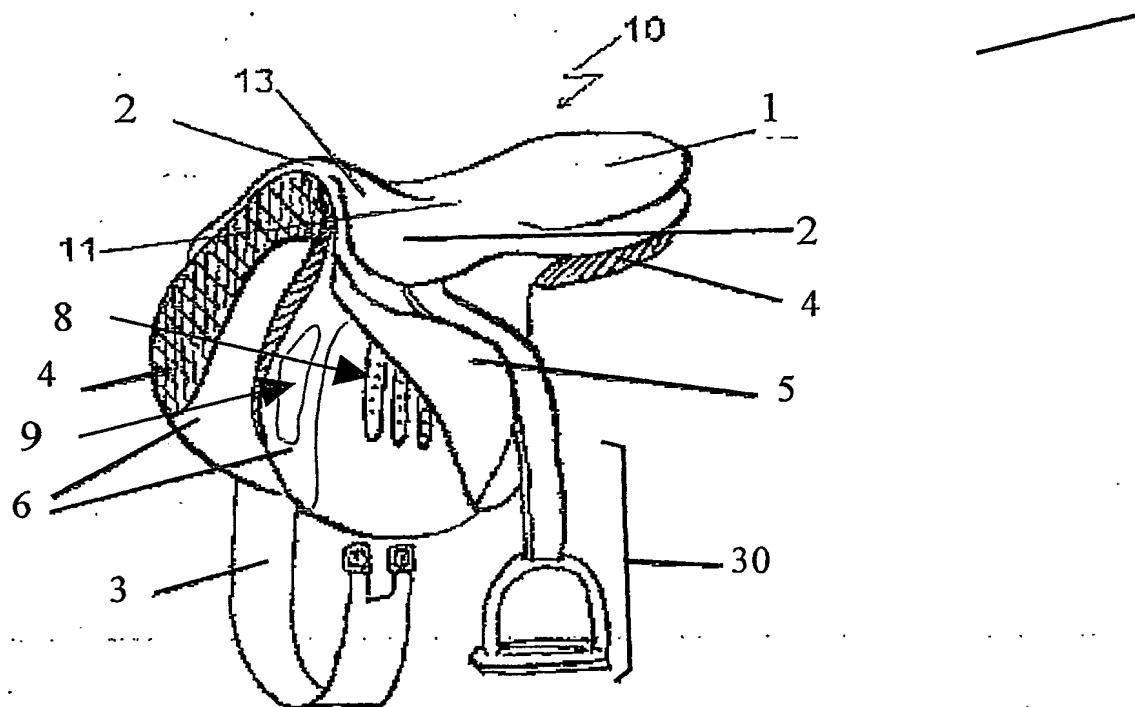


FIGURE 2

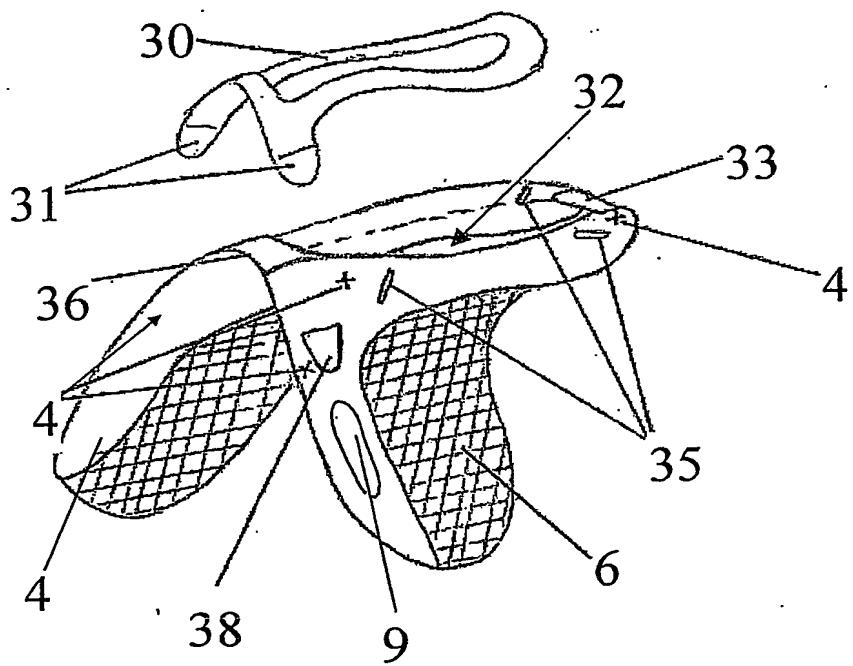


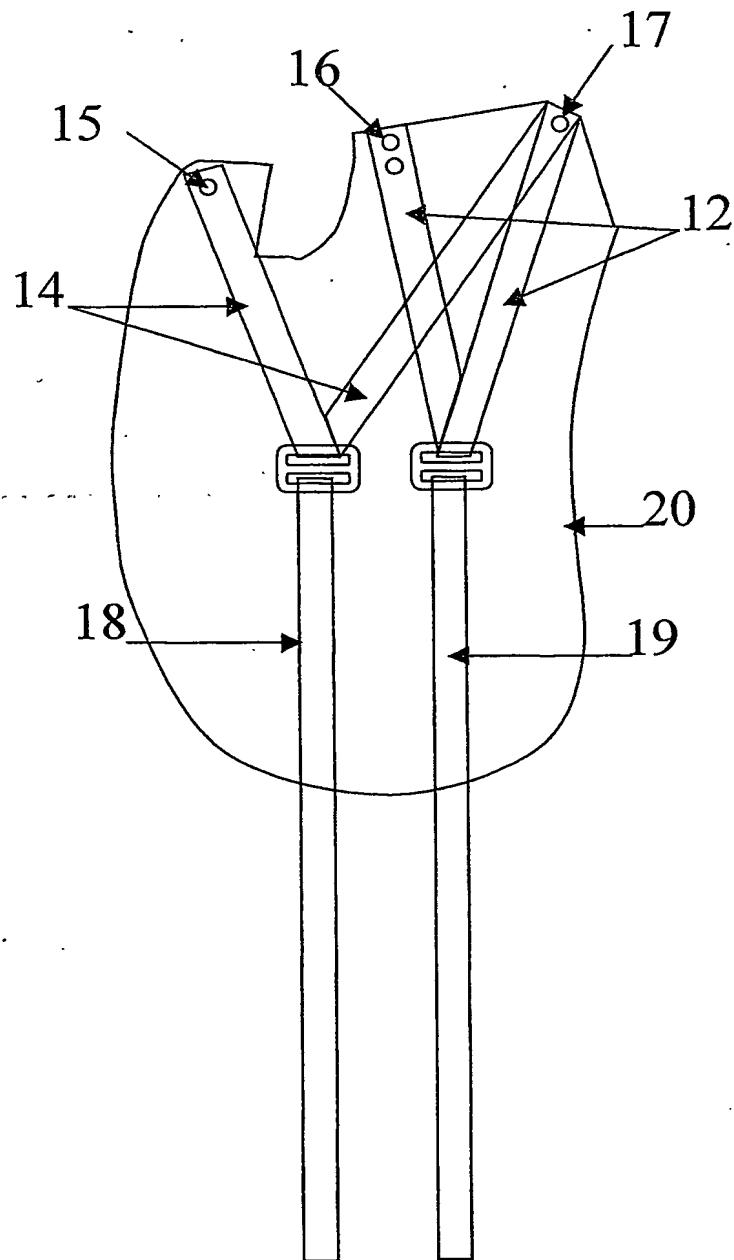
FIGURE 3

FIGURE 4

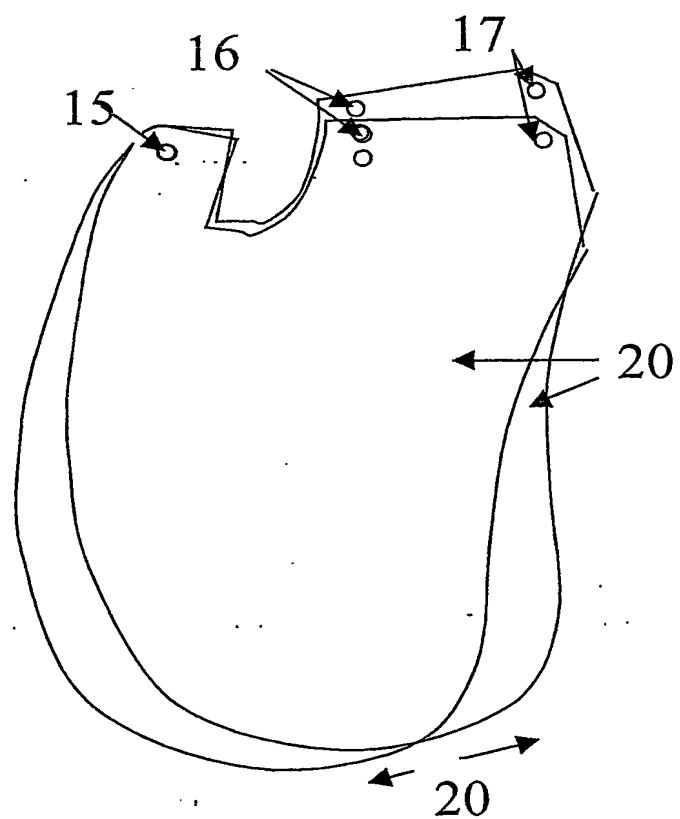


FIGURE 5

